

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were presented for examination and are pending. Claims 24-35 are withdrawn. Claims 1-23 are rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claim 1-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Montcalm et al. (5,958,605). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Montcalm et al. (5,958,605) uses a bilayer with a bottom layer of Si or Be on which is a top layer of an elemental compound that resists oxidation or corrosion. The bottom layers disclosed in the reference will not prevent interdiffusion. See the attached Declaration. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn

Claim 1, 3-6, 9, 10 and 13-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mirkarimi et al. (6,011,646). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mirkarimi et al. (6,011,646) provides a buffer layer between the substrate and the multilayer for counteracting stress in the multilayer. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the bottom layer of the bilayer is affixed directly to the top layer of the multilayer, the top layer of the bilayer is affixed directly to the bottom layer of the bilayer and there is no layer above the top layer of the bilayer. The reference does not teach the limitations of the applicant's claim 1. The reference teaches a multilayer coating having a bottom surface affixed directly to a buffer layer that is affixed directly

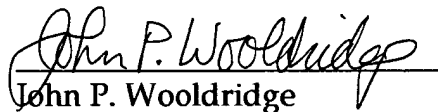
to a substrate. The buffer layer is used to negate the stress created by the multilayer coating. The applicant's bilayer is affixed to the top of the ML coating, which is affixed to the substrate. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusions

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance based on claims 1-4, 7-12 and 14-23 in view of the amendments thereto and the foregoing comments.

If any impediments remain to prompt allowance of the case, please contact the undersigned at 808-270-1011.

Respectfully submitted,


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